Folsom Dam and Lake Revised PMF Study
American River Basin, California

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There are several compelling reasons for developing a revised PMF for Folsom Dam and Lake at this time: (1) new criteria for computing the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) were developed by the Hydrometeorological Branch of the National Weather Service in 1996 – the final report was published in 1999 as Hydrometeorological Report (HMR) No. 59; (2) several new studies are under way to evaluate modifications of Folsom Dam's spillway and outlets to reduce the flooding potential for the downstream area, including the City of Sacramento; and (3) Corps criteria requires that designs for new dams or those undergoing major modifications ensure the safe passage of the PMF without major damage. This study develops a new Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) for Folsom Dam and Lake and presents the development of that PMF inflow hydrograph. It also considers and tests Corps guidelines and procedures and uses two of the largest storms of the century to develop and finalize the model. This report supersedes all previous PMF studies on the American River Basin above Folsom Dam.